

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02857 030838Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W

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R 030807Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO

SUBJ: PLO AFTER RABAT AND UNGA

1. CHICAGO DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT GEORGIE ANNE GEYER PASSED ON TO EMBASSY HER IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT ATTITUDES OF PLO LEADERSHIP IN DAMASCUS. GEYER IS LONG TIME REPORTER OF EVENTS IN ME AND HAS PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS WITH MANY OF PLO LEADERSHIP. IN DAMASCUS, SHE SAW, AMONG OTHERS, ABU MAISAR, QUADDUMI AND MUHSIN.

2. GEYER SAID THAT FOR FIRST TIME SHE FOUND PLO LEADERSHIP GENERALLY CONFUSED AS TO WHERE THEY ARE HEADED. SHE SAID THERE SEEMED ONLY ONE POINT ON WHICH ALL PLO LEADERS IN DAMASCUS WERE CLEARLY AGREED --- NOT TO RECOGNIZE STATE OF ISRAEL. BEYOND THAT, THEY WERE UNSURE WHERE OR HOW TO PROCEED. IN HER OPINION, THEY DO NOT YET KNOW. SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR LINE THAT PLO IS LIBERATION FORCE NOT ONLY FOR ARABS IN ISRAEL BUT FOR ORIENTAL JEWS. SHE SAID THERE ARE LEADERS SUCH AS ABU MAISAR WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER (HAVING SO RECENTLY COME FROM WEST BANK) BUT SEEM TO BELIEVE IT.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02857 030838Z

3. GEYER ADDED THAT SHE FOUND NO ELATION OR GLOATING ABOUT UNGA AND POSITION PLO HAS WON AS RESULT OF UN RESOLUTIONS. INSTEAD, THEY ARE ASKING "WHERE HAS IT ALL GOTTEN US. WE STILL HAVE NO LAND. WE STILL ARE NOT BACK IN PALESTINE." GEYER SAID SHE WAS STRUCK BY THEIR QUANDRY -- SEEMING SUCCESS BUT NO REAL RESULTS. SHE SENSED (THOUGH PLO LEADERS DID NOT ACTUALLY SAY IT) THAT PLO WAS LOOKING TO US FOR SOME HELP IN MOVING TOWARD THEIR GOAL OF RETURNING TO PALESTINE. PLO LEADERSHIP IS, IN HER WORDS, KEENLY AWARE OF WHAT THEY VIEW AS A CHANGING ATTITUDE IN US TOWARD PALESTINIANS AND AWAY FROM ISRAEL. GEYER BELIEVES THAT THEY MAY WELL BE INCORRECTLY ASSESSING MAGNITUDE OF SUCH CHANGE AND THUS ITS INFLUENCE ON USG.

4. GEYER SAID SHE PLANS TO SPEND SOME ADDITIONAL TIME IN BEIRUT WITH PLO LEADERSHIP THERE IN ATTEMPT GET BETTER FOCUS ON HOW PLO INTENDS PROCEED.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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